that there is justification for 10 more post offices.

The Plan for the current year (1988-89) covers setting up of post offices in the following areas/institutions:

(i) Nirman Vihar.
(ii) Rohini.
(iii) Vasant Kunj.
(iv) Saket.
(v) Sarita Vihar.
(vi) DDA flats, Kalkaji.
(vii) Jhilmil Industrial Complex.
(viii) C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road.
(ix) Technology Bhawan.
(x) Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital Complex.

A post office in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital Complex has already been opened on 16-7-1988. The other post offices are expected to be opened as and when suitable accommodation is available.

In addition to opening of new post offices, a scheme of re-deployment of workforce has also been implemented so that more manpower, is made available in post offices where the pressure of work has substantially increased.

Use of gas found in Mandapetta in Andhra Pradesh

*157. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the quantum of production of gas in Mandapetta drilling in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what proposals are under way to put this gas for commercial use; and

(c) for what purposes the gas found in Mandapetta is suitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) During the initial testing, Mandapetta-I well has produced gas at the rate of 1.68 lakh cubic metres per day.

(b) and (c) This is the first gas strike made at Mandapetta structure. Some more drilling would need to be done to quantify the gas availability and thereafter to prepare utilisation plans.

Self sufficiency in iodine required for edible common salt

*158. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for iodisation of all edible common salt needed in India, (about 30 lakh MT) about 150 MT of potassium iodate is required; and

(b) whether the iodine needed for the purpose is manufactured and is available in the country and if not, what steps Government propose to take to achieve self-sufficiency in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The total edible salt consumption in the country is now around 40 lakh M.T. for which about 200 M.T. of potassium iodate would be required for iodisation.

(b) No, Sir. Iodine is not manufactured indigenously and is being imported.

Electronic exchange in Meerut

*159. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the old telephone exchange and also the new cross-bar exchange in Meerut are not functioning properly

and there are many complaints in this regard;

(b) whether the recently installed cross-bar exchange had been supplied a second hand machine; and

(c) whether Government are considering the installation of an electronic exchange in Shastri Nagar area of the city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) The strowger exchange and cross-bar exchange at Meerut are generally functioning properly. There were complaints on account of faults developed during the technicians agitation. The faults have been attended to.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to install a 5,000 lines digital electronic exchange at Meerut in the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Electrification of flats in Group Housing Societies in Delhi

*160. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) has received requests from Confederation of Group Housing Societies in Delhi to appoint one Additional General Manager to clear the back-log of pending electrification work for societies which have already completed construction of flats;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(c) what is the number of applications for electrification from group housing societies pending with DESU as on September 30, 1988; and

(d) what steps have been taken to provide permanent/temporary electricity connection to Samachar Cooperative Group Housing Society, Mayur Vihar Ext., Phase two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of 'a' above.

(c) The number of applications for electrification from Group Housing Societies pending with DESU on 30-9-1988 is 156.

(d) A scheme for electrification for Samachar Cooperative Group Housing Society has already been prepared by DESU. The request for temporary electricity connection can be considered by DESU only after DDA and the Housing Society pay to DESU their share of cost for implementing electrification schemes. DESU has been directed to complete the electrification process within three months of completion of commercial formalities by DDA and Samachar Cooperative Group Housing Society.

Joint ventures with Chinese State Corporations

@1148. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow joint ventures in India between the Chinese State Corporations and private parties in India in selected fields; and

(b) if so, what are the regulations by which such ventures will have to

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@Previously Unstarred Question 189, transferred from the 3rd November, 1988.